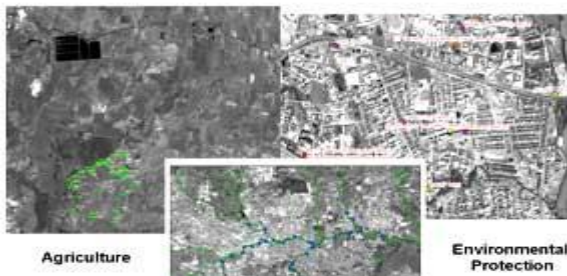




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A Picture is Worth 1,000 + Words

SAVE held an event to mark the successful completion of an eighteen-month activity to build Cypriot capacity in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and natural resource planning and management. In his remarks, U.S. Ambassador Urbancic applauded the many accomplishments to date and called on local experts to continue to maintain, use and improve the system on which sound decisions can be made with regard to the island's resources. Through this activity, more than 150 people were trained in how to use the latest GIS technology and several mentored projects were implemented to improve the day-to-day management of



critical resources such as water. Additionally, the GIS activity has made data and information previously unavailable to resource managers accessible to them in their daily routines—something that should contribute to better performance and decision making. Also significant to note is the culture of cooperation that has been nurtured between those who have been working with SAVE and ultimately need to work together on matters related to sustainable development.

*GIS users
and experts
at the event*



Exploring Europe and Ourselves: Geographies and Identities at Work



A new publication, the key output of the ACT-fund “Exploring Europe and Ourselves: Geographies and Identities

at Work” project, was presented at a press conference organized by the Department of Education Sciences of European University Cyprus and POST-Research Institute. The project focused on the state of geography education in Cyprus and trained Cypriot educators on both sides of the divide to use European geography as a way to explore European and Cypriot identities. Part I of the three-part publication—which is available in English, Greek and Turkish—includes the results of two studies: the first, an analysis of how Europe is represented in Geography/Social Science primary and secondary curricula; and the second, a needs assessment of educators teaching Geography/Social Science in primary and secondary schools in Cyprus. The second part of the publication is a record of the educational seminar on European Geography education, which was held February 1-2, 2008 at European University Cyprus. Part III of the volume includes three lesson plans for educators and respective worksheets for pupils, developed by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot educators, which aim at mobilizing new approaches in European Geography education.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises

EDGE met with the pomegranate growers to discuss their participation in Fruitlogistica, payments for the first harvest, and direct sales made by the growers. They also continued work on GLOBALGAP certification for the artichoke growers and arranged the harvesting of potatoes according to the GLOBALGAP requirements. EDGE's Tourism Team Leader is preparing an Event Management and Organization training for Büyükkonuk/Komi Kebir and the neighboring villages that will be held before the end of the year.

Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

REAP organized a series of trainings for the Turkish Cypriot electricity utility, including on the topics of customer relations; meeting management and facilitation; coaching and performance management; team establishment and development; and communications. REAP is also conducting a survey to measure change in awareness about energy efficiency among Turkish Cypriot households. The results are expected to be released by the end of January.

Capacity Development and Training

The CADET team continues to get acquainted with Cyprus and its local partners and is implementing the assessment that will underpin future training programs. CADET's local staff travelled to Skopje for training in office systems and management at World Learning's office there.

Action for Cooperation and Trust

The book *Multicultural Youth Camp Models*, which includes three complete models based on different age groups is now available in English and will soon be ready in Turkish and Greek. Twelve youth organizations will come together to implement a new Youth Activism project led by Soma Akriton and the Mediation Center. The project involves two camps—one led by Kayad and one by Doves. Presentations to key stakeholder groups about the restoration plan for the Armenian Church and Monastery were well received and works are scheduled to begin in the new year.

Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

SAVE produced yet another informative brochure in their "one-pager" series. The latest, "Groundwater Modeling Activities," is available upon request by [emailing SAVE](#). SAVE continues its training program for the EDGE Agriculture Extension Service junior engineers, covering several key aspects of water conservation in agriculture. The next training is on the CROPWAT Software Program, a Food and Agriculture Organization program used to determine crop water requirements and establish irrigation schedules. The class includes a hands-on computer-based tutorial session on how to do analyses similar to those performed with soil moisture data collected from local orchards. The aim of the training program is to transfer knowledge and skills to partner organizations and encourage them to train others. The eighth and final application round of the SAVE Small Grants Program concluded on December 19, 2008. Finally, the Children's Companion to the Famagusta Trail map is in its final stages and will soon be ready for distribution.



Continuing their efforts to increase local capacity to manage the island's natural resources, SAVE conducted a hands-on field training on soil moisture analysis for local agricultural managers and the EDGE Project Agricultural Extension interns. The training focused on the introduction and installation of a soil moisture system at a potato orchard which will improve the analysis of collected soil moisture data and assessment of existing irrigation practices, helping farmers provide recommendations on more efficient irrigation scheduling.

News from Nicosia

December 16

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met under the framework of the negotiations to discuss governance and power sharing, focusing on the issue of foreign affairs. Following the meeting, U.N. special envoy Alexander Downer said the leaders were "making good progress" and that he believed Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders will broker a reunification deal despite difficult negotiations.



*Happy Holidays from all
of us at USAID/Cyprus!*

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.
 - The **Capacity Development and Training (CADET)** project complements other USG-funded programs in Cyprus by providing capacity development and training in critical areas.